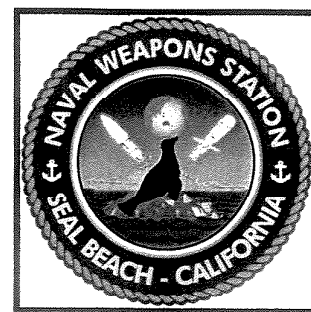


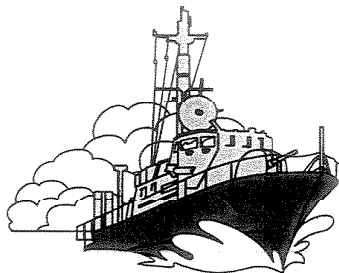
Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Installation Restoration Program Site 5 – Clean Fill Disposal Area Non-Time-Critical Removal Action



Fact Sheet

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California

June 2001



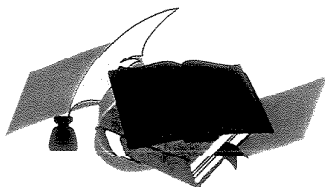
INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is being distributed to inform the public that the Department of the Navy (Navy), after evaluating comments received from the public comment period held October to November 2000, is proposing to conduct a cleanup of soils containing ordnance items at Site 5, Naval Weapons Station (NAVWPNSTA) Seal Beach. Ordnance items are military munitions and associated inert scrap derived from such military munitions.

SITE BACKGROUND

NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach is located within the city of Seal Beach, approximately 26 miles south of Los Angeles. NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach is an operating base and not currently scheduled for closure. Site 5 is a 4.1-acre area located in the southwest quadrant of the base, southeast of Kitts Highway. Site 5 is within the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) established to preserve one of the largest remaining salt marshes in Southern California. Five bird species and one plant species classified as endangered or threatened are known to occupy NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach and the associated wetlands. Site 5 is located adjacent to the Wildlife Refuge Nature Center and is visible to visitors.

During the initial construction of NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach in 1941, construction debris and clean fill were disposed in an area approximately 400 feet south-southeast of the Kitts Highway and Bolsa Avenue intersection. A review of aerial photographs later indicated that earth-moving activities, possibly related to disposal activities at Site 5, had been conducted before November 1952. Aerial photographs from 1952 through 1981 show changes in the general ground surface of the area, the extent of vegetation, and the location of unpaved roads. These changes suggest that filling or disposal activities had occurred during these years. In 1990, it was reported that ordnance items had been found at the site and trucks were observed off-loading ordnance-related materials during this time period. Few if any changes were observed in aerial photographs for the period 1981 to 1995, suggesting activities had ceased or were minimal. Today, no disposal occurs at the site. Future uses of land are anticipated to remain the same.



PREVIOUS SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The Navy began investigating potentially contaminated sites at NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach under the Installation Restoration (IR) Program in 1984. The Initial Assessment Study (IAS) identified Site 5 as a potentially contaminated site based on the results

of record searches, aerial photograph reviews, field inspections, and interviews with NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach personnel.

A Preliminary Assessment (PA) was conducted in 1990 as a supplement to the IAS. Previously found ordnance items and the observation of trucks off-loading shell casings mixed with construction debris were reported at this time. The PA recommended that the southern part of Site 5 be investigated under the Navy IR Program for possible explosive wastes.

Notice of Public Comment Period

A 30-day public comment period for written comments on the draft AM/RAW for Site 5 is being held from June 6 to July 5, 2001. Evaluation of the comments received will be used in development of the final AM/RAW.

Notice of Public Meeting

During the public comment period, the draft AM/RAW will also be the subject of a public meeting:

When: June 27, 2001, 7pm to 8pm.

Where: NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach, Building 110

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Pei-Fen Tamashiro,
IR Program Manager
NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach
(562) 626-7897

Notification of the public comment period is also being made through newspaper advertisement.

A Site Inspection was conducted in 1995 and results confirmed in a Focused Site Inspection in 1996. The investigations were limited to sampling the perimeter of the disposal area to

avoid potential hazard from unexploded ordnance items. As a result of the investigation, it was recommended that an ecological impact evaluation be conducted, and administrative steps be taken to inform site workers of possible buried ordnance and elevated lead concentrations in the soil, and to prohibit personnel from entering the site.

In 1997, an ecological risk assessment was performed at Site 5. Groundwater was not found to be a pathway for contaminants to enter surface water. The average concentrations of some chemicals were found to pose minimal risk to ecological receptors potentially exposed to the soil.

In 1998, a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) was conducted to determine contaminant levels within the disposal area soils, sediments of the salt marsh, and groundwater at Site 5. The RSE also included unexploded ordnance and radiological walkover surveys and human health and ecological risk assessment.

The RSE unexploded ordnance survey was conducted using geophysical survey methods and a portable magnetometer to detect metal. The results of the survey indicated the presence of ordnance items and scrap metal at the ground surface and within the disposal fill. Because magnetic anomalies were found to exist at Site 5, ordnance items may still be present.

The results of the RSE radiological walkover survey indicated that radiation levels within the disposal area were well within the range for neighboring areas outside the disposal area.

The RSE human health risk assessment indicated that the potential cancer risk for a wildlife restoration/maintenance supervisor or tour guide exposed to soils and volatile organic compounds from the groundwater is within the target risk range for human-health protectiveness, as defined in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

The hazard indices for these same personnel indicate that toxic conditions are unlikely. The ecological risk assessment for Site 5 indicated that the potential for adverse impact to the environment also appears to be low.

The RSE Report recommended no further action for soils, sediment, and groundwater at Site 5 based on chemical analysis results. However, because a potential hazard from ordnance items may still exist, it was recommended that the site be further evaluated for ordnance items.

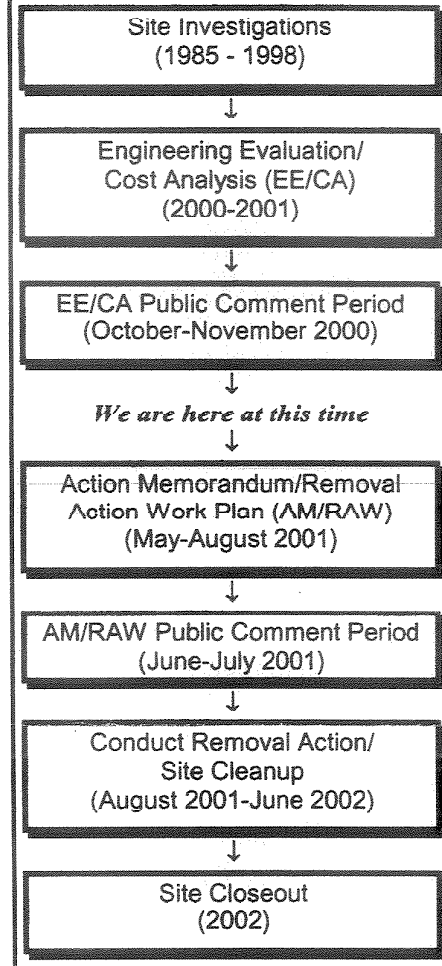


REMOVAL ACTIONS

Since the conditions at Site 5 do not present an immediate threat to human health or the environment, a non-time-critical removal action is appropriate. This type of removal action is documented through an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA).

The EE/CA provides information on the source, nature, and extent of the contamination and risks present at the site. It also identifies the basic objective of the removal action and analyzes the effectiveness, implementability, and cost of various alternatives that may be used to satisfy these objectives. The Navy performs cleanup of ordnance items at its active facilities under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) using the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. Thus, for purposes of the Site 5 EE/CA, the CERCLA process has been modified to address issues related to removal of ordnance items. Specifically, the EE/CA does not address chemical contamination in soil, sediment, or groundwater because the chemicals present are not at levels that pose a threat to human health or the environment.

THE NON-TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION PROCESS



The EE/CA was circulated for a 30-day public comment period from October 19, 2000 to November 20, 2000. Afterward, comments were evaluated and a responsiveness summary prepared describing what actions were taken with regard to each comment. This summary was mailed out to all parties who submitted comments, and used to make appropriate changes to the EE/CA. Upon completion of this process, the draft Action Memorandum/Removal Action Work Plan (AM/RAW) was prepared to document the Navy's proposed decision on the recommended alternative. The public has 30 days, from June 6 to July 5, 2001, to review the AM/RAW and comment.

IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The Site 5 EE/CA identified and evaluated four removal action alternatives to address ordnance items that may still be present in the disposal fill. These alternatives represent a range of options, selected for the task based on site characteristics:

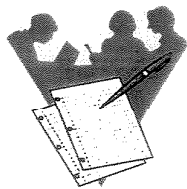
Alternative 1 – No Action;

Alternative 2 – Engineering/Institutional Controls;

Alternative 3 – Limited Removal with Engineering/Institutional Controls;

Alternative 4 – *The Recommended Alternative* – Complete Removal.

The recommended alternative will serve to substantially eliminate, prevent, or abate potential hazards associated with the ordnance items.



ACTION MEMORANDUM/ REMOVAL ACTION WORK PLAN

The Navy's proposed decision to perform removal of ordnance items at Site 5 is documented in an AM/RAW. The AM/RAW is the primary decision document that substantiates the need for a removal action, identifies the proposed action, and explains the rationale for the particular type of removal action selected. To satisfy California Health and Safety Code requirements, the Navy incorporated the RAW into the AM. This also helps the community to better understand the removal action work plan for the site.

THE RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Of the four alternatives evaluated in the EE/CA, the Navy recommends Alternative 4, Complete Removal. This alternative best meets the nine evaluation criteria of overall protectiveness of human health, compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, long-term effectiveness, reduction of ordnance items, short-term effectiveness, implementability, cost, and state and community acceptance.

Alternative 4 consists of removing approximately 18,000 cubic yards of dry disposal fill material in lifts and processing it through a mechanical sifter. Recovered ordnance items that pose a safety risk will be turned over to the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team for transport to and destruction at an existing on-base facility specifically designed to render active ordnance items inert. Construction debris and other inert materials will be transported to offsite recycling and/or disposal facilities, as appropriate. A geophysical survey of the sifted soil and removal area will be conducted to verify that no metallic materials remain before the site surface is re-graded to pre-disposal grade. The sifted soil will be temporarily stockpiled at Site 5, and then relocated over time for beneficial reuse at other NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach project locations.

CLEANUP AUTHORITY

If approved, the cleanup will be conducted under the Navy's IR Program. The purpose of this program is to identify, assess, characterize, and clean up or control contamination from past hazardous waste disposal operations and hazardous material spills at Navy installations. The IR Program incorporates federal and state laws and regulations governing environmental investigation and cleanup (e.g., CERCLA, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, and the NCP).

Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV) is administering the IR Program. The California Environmental Protection

Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region provide regulatory oversight for all IR Program activities. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, along with other federal, state, and local agencies also provide review and input, as needed, for these activities, including the cleanup process.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

As regulatory oversight entity, the DTSC is currently evaluating environmental impacts from this proposed project. Once the review is completed, a draft CEQA document will be circulated for a 30 or 45 day public comment period. The comment period will be announced through a newspaper advertisement and direct mail to the project mailing list. For more information, please contact one of the DTSC representatives listed on page 4.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Two information repositories exist for NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach. They are located at:

- 1) Seal Beach Public Library
Mary Wilson Branch
707 Electric Avenue
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 431-3584
- 2) NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach
800 Seal Beach Blvd., Bldg. 110
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 626-7897

These repositories are open to the public and include the key documents of the Administrative Record (AR). These documents include site documents and background information on the nature of site issues,

environmental investigations, planned response actions, and public involvement activities.

The full Administrative Record is also accessible to the public, at Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, in San Diego. For access contact: Diane Silva, AR Coordinator (619) 532-3676.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

A community-based Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was established at NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach in January 1995 to increase public participation in the environmental restoration program. Composed of local citizens and representatives of various organizations, the RAB reviews and comments on environmental documents (such as the EE/CA and AM/RAW for Site 5), attends monthly meetings, and acts as a liaison

between the facility's environmental program and the community.

The RAB for NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach typically meets at Building 110 on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend these meetings. For more information about the RAB, contact Ms. Lindi Willhite, Community Co-Chair at (714) 839-5663, or logon to the RAB website:

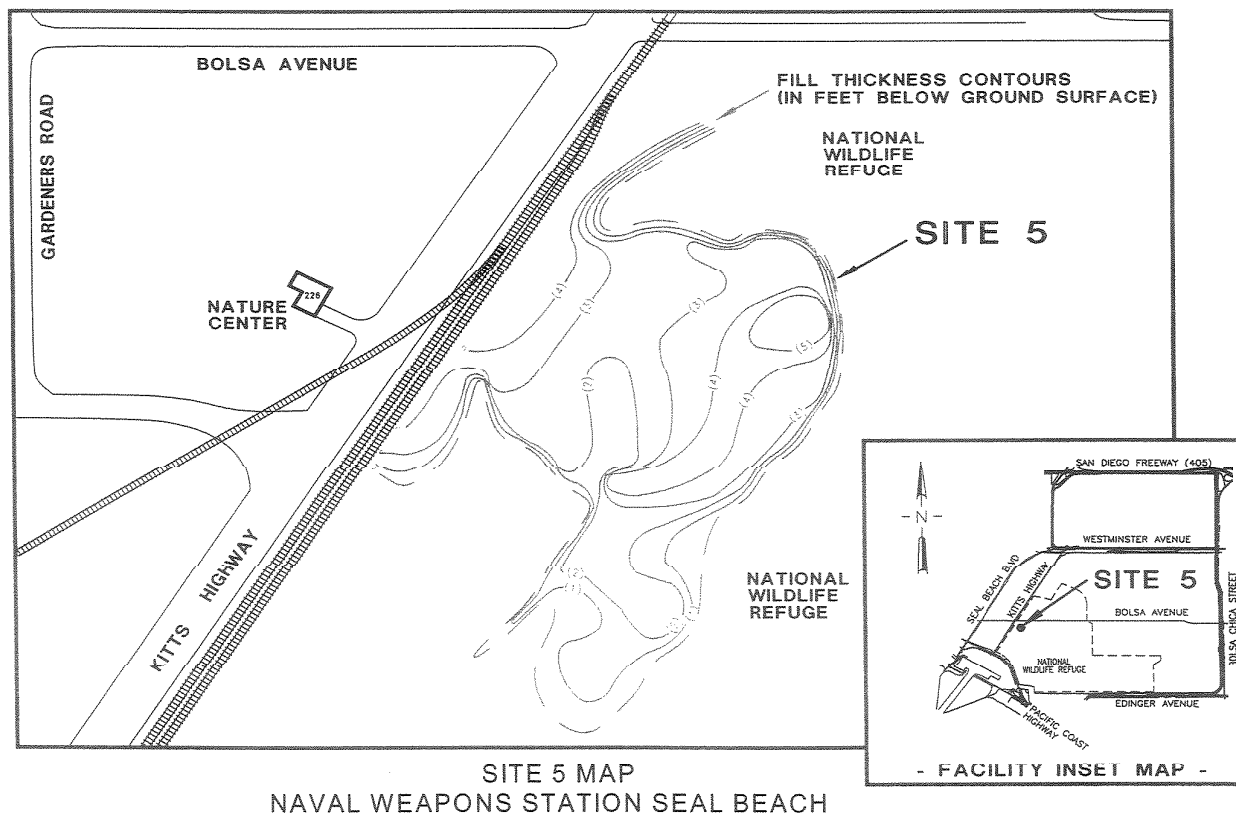
www.efds.w.navy.mil/dep/env/pages/rab1.htm.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The following individuals may be contacted for further information about the removal action for Site 5:

- Ms. Pei-Fen Tamashiro, NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach IR Program Manager (562) 626-7897
- Mr. Gregg Smith, NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Public Affairs Officer (562) 626-7215
- Mr. Dave Baillie, NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Environmental Director (562) 626-6068
- Mr. Si Le, SWDIV Remedial Project Manager (619) 532-1235
- Ms. Katherine Leibel, DTSC Project Manager (714) 484-5446
- Ms. Judy Chen, DTSC Public Participation Specialist (714) 484-5489



Place
Stamp
Here

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
Commanding Officer
Attn: Pei-Fen Tamashiro, Code: N45W
800 Seal Beach Boulevard
Seal Beach, CA 90740



Printed on Recycled Paper

NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Community Mailing List Request

☐ I would like to be added to the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Community mailing list.

☐ I would like to receive Restoration Advisory Board information.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

I would like my name entered as:

☐ a resident ☐ representing an organization

☐ a business ☐ an elected city, county, or state official

Note: Please clip and mail this coupon.

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
Pei-Fen Tamashiro (Code: N45W)
800 Seal Beach Boulevard
Seal Beach, CA 90740